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It was my 43rd birthday on Sunday, I know, I'm looking good for my age, and my darling other-half surprised me with a present of this brilliant cushion made by an anonymous prisoner currently residing at Her Majesties pleasure somewhere in Scotland. It's entitled Moustaches - for obvious reasons - and features surface embroidered bushy moustaches. You can see the entire range of products from Fine Cell Work [here](#).

Whilst trawling through the internet trying to find the website I came across [this site](#) which demonstrates prisoners' incredible ingenuity when not guided. Unfortunately these are not available to buy on-line.

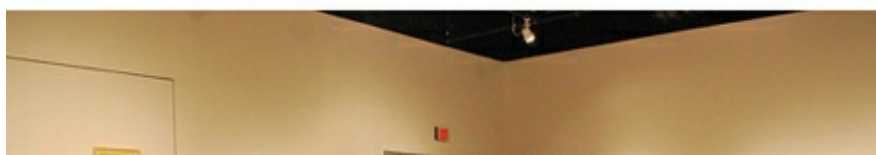
Nathan Usmar Lauder

Posted on Thursday, 10th of December 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(2\)](#)

Art Craft Product Textile

Lady of Habit.







I was pleasantly surprised to see that from the 23rd of October to the 5th of December this year the [Zach Feuer Gallery](#) in New York had a retrospective exhibition of works by the Pop artist, teacher and nun [Sister Mary Corita](#).

One of my all time favorite image makers who sadly passed away in 1986 spent 30 years practicing as a nun at the Immaculate Heart Convent in Los Angeles where she also had an art studio and used her time to create screen prints and serigraphs.

Her work features a beautiful mix of type and image usually in bright or fluorescent colours. Newspaper photos, chopped up slogans and quotes, advertising images, jingles and hand rendered type all came together to illustrate political and world issues she felt strongly about with a great sense of playfulness and freedom

It has been said that she is “responsible in part for advancing the silk screen process as fine art”. I can only hope one day to see them with my own eyes. Maybe next time...

Alex Geoffrey

Posted on Thursday, 10th of December 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(0\)](#)

Art Advertising Exhibition Illustration Printmaking Retro Typography

Flint stones



If it wasn't for Clerkenwell based hair salon [Fourth Floor](#) most of London's designers would look like badly styled hippies. If you're in the industry you're sure to know someone who's been there at some point over the years. When you walk out of their old school lift into the impressive warehouse space, you can't help but admire their eye for great design, especially their postcards and the packaging for their product range (these and their identity were created by London based agency [North](#)). Now long time manager of Fourth Floor, Conor O'Brien, has taken this admirable creative eye to Norwich and has set up his own salon [Flint](#). A great name derived not only from it's obvious blade sharpening ability but also from an historical flint wall opposite the premises. [Biblioteque](#) partner Mason Wells has created the identity. If you're in Norwich pop by for a chop and also to admire the creative surroundings.

Dave Brown

Posted on Wednesday, 9th of December 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(0\)](#)

Branding Graphics Retail

We have a winner...



Thank you to everyone who sent in their entries for the free tickets to Brussels competition. After much deliberation we have found a winner in this excellent reproduction of Magritte's High Society 1966.

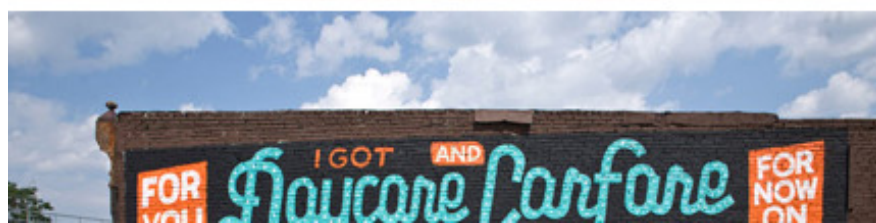
A special thank you to Sarah at We Are Social and Eurostar for offering our readers this great opportunity

Alex Geoffrey

Posted on Thursday, 22nd of October 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(2\)](#)

All above the streets and houses...







Stephen Powers is a New York based artists who during his youth wrote

graffiti under the name ESPO (Exterior Surface Painting Outreach). Powers work has always blurred the lines between graffiti and graphic design by producing murals influenced by advertising and sign writing, his public work often appearing to be legitimate billboards.

Today Stephen's work is as intelligent and engaging as ever. For his latest project 'A Love letter For You' Stephen Powers has traveled back to his home town of West Philadelphia, this time with the funding and backing from the local authorities, to paint a series of murals on the rooftops where graffiti once stood visible from the elevated train lines. Sadly the original 1980s graffiti went unnoticed by the public and were all painted brown sometime during the mid nineties. Powers feels that the original more 'traditional' graffiti was alienating and that by creating work which is understandable and readable by all it will ultimately result in a greater acceptance from the general public.

The 'A Love letter For You' project is still in production. For the latest murals, info and pictures straight from the rooftops of West Philadelphia check out the blog [here](#)

Alex Geoffrey

Posted on Tuesday, 20th of October 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(3\)](#)

[Art](#) [Advertising](#) [Architecture](#) [Environmental](#) [Graffiti](#) [Typography](#)

Group Hug



Way back in 2006 Gary Butcher blogged about some lovely cycling posters he's spotted in San Fran [link](#). A few years later, Jon Lee, Creative Director at London design consultancy [20.20](#) spotted them on 30gms. He loved

them so much he hunted down the illustrator [Tavis Coburn](#) and commissioned him to do 8 giant banners for their client Arsenal Football Club's Emirates Stadium. The banners show Arsenal legends past and present huddled together, as they do on the pitch before each game, circling the stadium perimeter. A great concept, beautifully executed, I can't imagine it's easy getting players likenesses and character spot on from behind! probably not easy printing and hanging them either, but hats off to all involved because they really are very impressive in situ and thoroughly worth a visit, even if you're not an Arsenal supporter, well, maybe not if you follow Tottenham, ironically, like Gary does!

Dave Brown

Posted on Monday, 12th of October 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(1\)](#)

[Architecture](#) [Environmental](#) [Illustration](#)

Minimalist Yard Sale



Arch minimalist [John Pawson](#) would probably never hold a yard sale but if he did, I imagine it would look a little like [Absolute Sellout](#). Forget boxes of dusty VHS tapes, think one VHS tape surrounded by white space.

According to Josh, they “curate rare and often overlooked items from the past century—occasionally repackaging, restructuring, or rebranding these items”.

Unfortunately Terence Conran's 1974 House Book is sold already but there are plenty of other gems if you're quick.

Last call for Brussels!



Don't forget to send us your entries for the free tickets to Brussels competition!

In order to show you how simple it can be we thought we would have a go at reproducing our own Magritte here in the Fibre studio (no this wasn't an entry for the National Giant Fruit Championships). For anyone who already sent in, or was planning to send in a version of [this painting](#) you will now have to think about a different solution. Full competition info [here](#).

Alex Geoffrey

Posted on Tuesday, 29th of September 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(1\)](#)

[Art](#) [Architecture](#) [Animation](#) [Competition](#) [Environmental](#) [Found objects](#) [Interactive](#)

Blu Movies



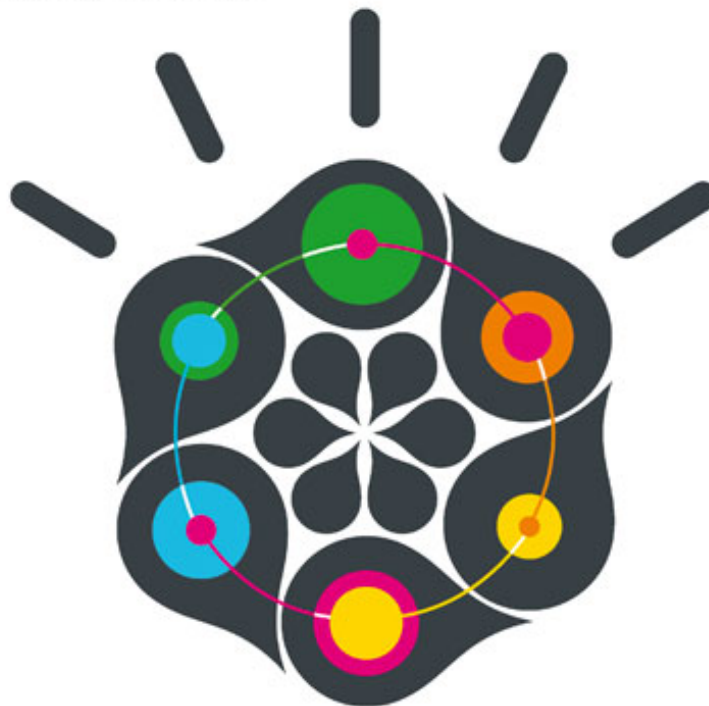
Everyone by now must have seen [Muto](#) the epic eight minute stop frame animation from Italian artist [Blu](#). Well, to my delight he's just completed a new film as part of the [Fame festival](#) which kicked off in Grottaglie Italy on the 19th of September this year. It's called [Combo](#) and this time it's a collaboration with [David Ellis](#) who has been making similar animations as part of [Barnstormers](#) since 1999.

Alex Geoffrey

Posted on Tuesday, 29th of September 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(0\)](#)

[Art](#) [Animation](#) [Craft](#) [Environmental](#) [Film](#) [Graffiti](#) [Illustration](#) [Interactive](#)
[Photography](#) [Video](#)

IBM, Back to the Future



Smarter resources to fuel a smarter planet.

Advances in science have made it possible to envision a planet that's powered in very new ways, creating electricity from the sun, the wind, waves, the atom or some combination thereof. But we also know it won't happen overnight—not profitably or on a global scale. For decades to come, we'll need to continue extracting energy stored in water lying far beneath the Earth's surface—also known as fossil fuels.

In fact, in the near term we'll need to extract more oil and natural gas than ever before. Projections show energy consumption increasing by 50% in the next 25 years. As we move toward a renewable future, we need to shape our hydrocarbon present in ways that are more efficient, affordable and protective of the environment.

Today, we can only extract about one-third of the oil in an existing reserve, leaving billions of barrels in reservoirs. That's unfortunate, since it can cost \$100 million to drill a single new well. Just a 1.5% increase in recovery from existing wells would yield enough oil for half a year's global consumption, lowering the cost of fuel—which would mean lower prices for travel, homes, food and consumer products.

Put simply, we need smarter oil and gas fields. And that means gathering and managing real-time data from across the entire production stream, in vast quantities. One oil field alone can generate the equivalent of 200 DVDs' worth of data per day. Making sense of all this information is critical for better decision making—about exploration, production and management.

Smarter exploration means integrating and processing geophysical and other relevant data to develop 3-D models of reservoirs. It means finding previously inaccessible oil and gas reserves embedded

beneath difficult terrain or the deepest ocean waters. Repsol, in partnership with scientists from around the world, is using advanced seismic imaging technology from ISM to reveal oil and gas deposits that traditional imaging techniques can't see.

Smarter production means capturing information about the volume and quality of oil and gas reservoirs before a new well is drilled. It means minimizing the drilling footprint and exploration risk while improving the safety and reliability of operations. One U.S.-based firm is using seismic data and rock physics inversion to create a comprehensive, integrated view of potential resources.

Smarter reservoir management makes use of sensors embedded across pipes, pumps and an entire field, generating data that can be compared against historical trends and applied to help optimize well performance. An intelligent field can even monitor itself while being run by a team of "virtual" experts around the world. Norway's Statoil-Hydro is linking real-time sensing capabilities in the field with collaborative analytics systems that increase the recovery rates of its oil and gas fields.

And being smarter is not just about management. It's also about anticipating problems before they occur—and, in some cases, adjusting automatically to prevent them, thereby reducing the risks to people and the environment. We have the ability today to infuse the system by which we find, extract and produce our energy resources with intelligence, and to make the most of every single drop.

Let's build a smarter planet. Join us and see what others are thinking at ibm.com/think



The problem of measuring similarity lies at the heart of many studies in medical research. Now IBM has developed a computer technique to help scientists uncover important similarities among disease symptoms. Charles Darwin spent 22 years analyzing the information he gathered on a single trip around the world. Ironically enough, the truth he sought was obscured by the mountains of data he had collected. In a modern attack on Darwin's dilemma, IBM mathematicians have found a way of using a computer to speed the search for similarities in great masses of information. The computer compares each item of data with every other. It creates a logical system of classification and often reveals elusive relationships. Doctors at a New York hospital are now using this method to study certain blood diseases and their complex symptom patterns. The same principle may be valuable in information retrieval systems of the future, which will provide easy access to millions of documents. By using computers and data processing systems to deal with gigantic data problems, scientists and businessmen alike can now find solutions that would otherwise remain hidden.



they're alike...but how much alike?



While leafing through The New Yorker or The Economist over the past few months I've stopped to admire advertisements for IBM's Conversations for a Smarter Planet. It's a series of ads that tries to position Big Blue at the forefront of technological thinking, albeit through some quite retro design.

With the Swiss typography, white space and Rand-inspired iconographic illustration, these ads have more to do with IBM ads from fifty years ago, perhaps evoking a time when IBM were thought more progressive than they are now. They might be talking about the future but their design evokes the 1960s.

David Rainbird

Posted on Sunday, 27th of September 2009 [Permalink](#) [Comment \(0\)](#)

Advertising Retro

Archives